

PERFINS OF U.S. COMPANIES ABROAD

BY JAN PRINS

INSTALLMENT ONE

Many American companies with branches overseas have used Perfins. I think that collectors of U.S.A. Perfins will certainly have interest in these stamps. I have compiled a list of the various Perfins used by American firms outside U.S.A./Canada. I do not want to pretend that this list is a complete or nearly complete one. Through the years many data on Perfins have been lost, so I will appreciate it very much if collectors who have Perfins not mentioned in this article, will report their findings either to me or to the Perfins Club.

1) UNITED SHOE MACHINERY COMPANY.

One of the most significant of all Black inventors was the unschooled immigrant from Dutch Guiana, Jan Ernst Metzeliger who lived from 1852-1889. He revolutionized the international shoe-manufacturing industry by his invention and development of the automatic shoe lasting machine. In 1883 he succeeded in perfecting his design and was granted U.S. patent.

Several businessmen, in order to market Metzeliger's inventions, particularly his lasting machines, formed a company, the Consolidated Lasting Machine Company, in which Metzeliger was a major stockholder until his death in 1889. Ten years later, on February 7, 1899, the Consolidated Lasting Machine Company merged with the Good-year Machinery Company and McKay Shoe Machinery Company to form United Shoe Machinery Company. Shortly thereafter, USMC purchased the business of Pearson & Bennion of Leicester, England, and formed the British United Shoe Machinery Co. Ltd. Within months, USMC of France was formed at Paris, the Swiss company was established and Deutsche Vereinigte Schuhmaschinen Gesellschaft of Frankfurt a/Main was organized (see Fig. 1) to carry on business in Germany, Austria, Middle Europe and Scandinavia. Later, USMC expanded its interests to South America. So far, the following Perfins of USMC are known:



Figure 1
Germany



Denmark



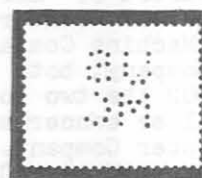
France



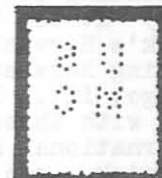
Italy



Spain



Argentina



Brazil

2) ARMOUR & COMPANY LTD.

One of the largest of meat-packing and slaughtering establishments, headquarters Chicago, Ill. It was founded in 1867 by Phillip D. Armour. In 1900 there was a merger with the Armour Packing Company of Kansas City, Mo., a company organized by Phillip D. Armour's brothers. The new concern carried on under the name of Armour & Company.

Here are some Armour Perfins:



Belgium
Antwerp



Argentina

3) SWIFT & COMPANY Headquarters Chicago, Ill.

The industrialist G. F. Swift, who lived from 1839-1903, successfully shipped the first refrigerator carload of fresh meat to the East in 1877. In 1885 he formed with his brother the firm Swift & Company. The following Perfins are known:



1



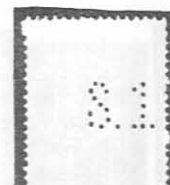
2

Swift Packing Co.
France

Type 2: Paris/Bordeaux



Swift & Co.
Netherlands



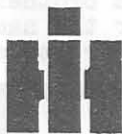
Argentina

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PERFINS OF U.S. COMPANIES ABROAD
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4) INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY

Two leading manufacturers of harvesting machinery at the turn of the century were McCormick's Harvesting Machine Company and the Deering Harvester Company, both located in Chicago, Ill. In 1902 the two companies combined with three smaller concerns to form the International Harvester Company. Cyrus H. McCormick, son of Cyrus Hall McCormick, who invented the reaper, became the first president of I.H.C. By 1909 factories had been established in several European countries, and sales outlets had been set up in most of the countries of the world. The International Harvester Company was identified by the "I.H.C." monogram until adoption, in 1945, of the present "IH" symbol.



EUROPE



England
London



Ireland



France



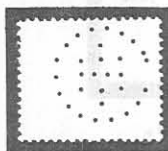
Netherlands
Rotterdam



Netherlands



Belgium



Belgium



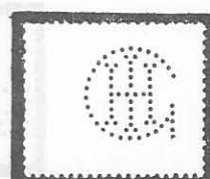
Denmark



Sweden



Germany



Austria



Hungary



Switzerland



Italy

SOUTH AMERICA AND SOUTH AFRICA



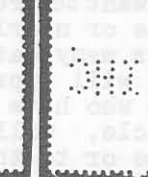
Argentina
B. Aires



Argentina
Rosario



Argentina
Santa Fe



Argentina
Bahia Blanca



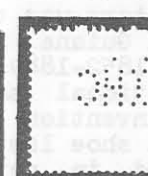
Brazil
Rio de Janeiro



Brazil
Sao Paulo

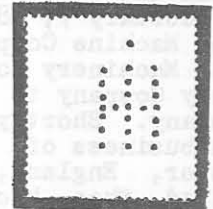
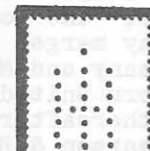


Uruguay

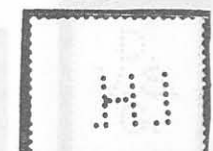
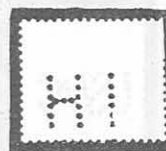
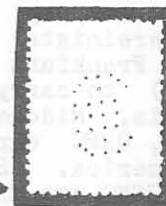


South Africa
Durban

AUSTRALIA



Tasmania



Adelaide

(to be continued)